

6th February 1924]

### III

#### COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

The SECRETARY then laid on the table a \*list of various projects which have been delayed or held up owing to the non-passage of the Irrigation Bill.

### IV

#### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1923-24.

##### *Grant I.*

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Mr. President, in regard to the first motion which stands in my name I should like with your permission not to move it now, but to withdraw it and give you fresh notice. I may perhaps mention for the information of the House that a doubt has been just brought to my notice as to the precise form in which this motion should be brought forward. I should like to clear that matter before I place it before the House.”

With the permission of the House the following motion was not made :—

*The Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 17,200 under Land Revenue Department for the grant of special pay to Deputy Collectors employed on settlement work and revision of adangals.*

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

*That the Government be granted an additional sum of Rs. 9,600 under Land Revenue Department for the grant of special pay to officers in charge of parties and to the officer in charge of the Central Survey Office.*

“ As the House is aware, Sir, it is a matter which has already been under discussion at the last budget. The officers of the survey parties have been in existence for the last 20 years. The necessity for their allowance was explained last year by Sir Habib-ul-lah. He pointed out that every survey party had at least two executive officers of whom one was at the head of the party and that one officer was very much weighed with responsibilities. The fact is, as Sir Habib-ul-lah said, he is in the position practically of a commanding officer with all attendant risks and responsibilities. During the budget debate in the Council last March this allowance was cut out, after a very short debate consisting, if I remember right, of a speech of a few lines by an hon. Member and a very brief reply by the Member in charge. That is as regards the officers in charge of the parties. I may mention that my proposal also covers a similar allowance for the officer in charge of the Central Survey office. That allowance was severely cut out by the Council and the main grounds put forward for their action were that they disapproved in general special allowance and that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee ought to be awaited before the House were asked to consider whether this particular allowance was or was not justifiable. The recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have now been received. In fact, I may say we have waited until their receipt before bringing this matter before the Council. As the Council is aware, the matter of allowance received very special and very careful consideration from the Retrenchment Committee. They were occupied on this subject from October to March and as a result of their labours the allowances all over the Presidency in every department have been systematised and the Committee have put forward proposals which promises